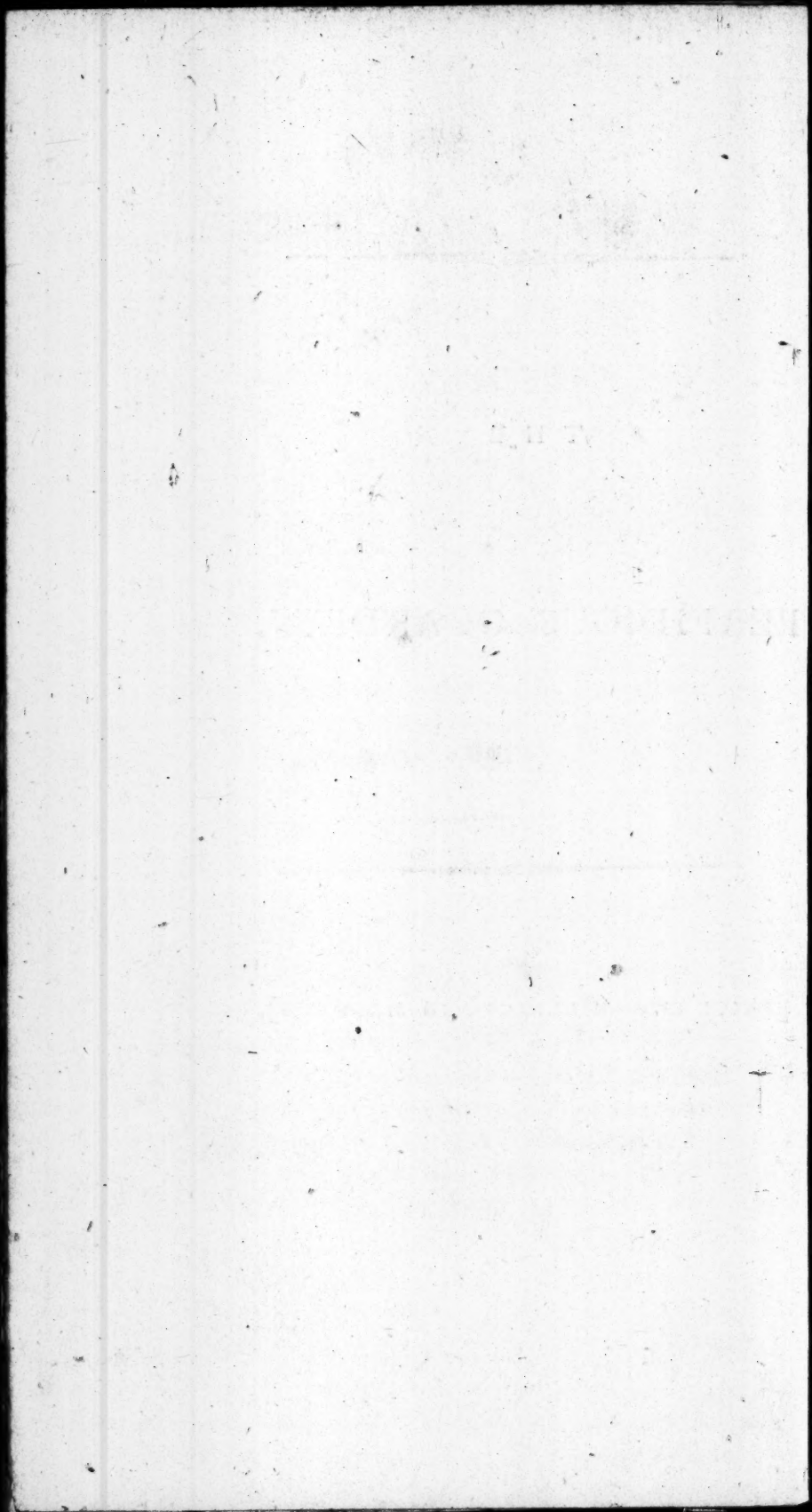


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THE
PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE]



THE
PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN;
OR,
VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE,
EXEMPLIFIED IN THE
HISTORY
OF
LUCRETIA LAWSON.
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL II.

L O N D O N.

Printed and Sold by T. WILKINS, *Aldermanbury.*

Sold also by J. BEW, Paternoster Row; T.
HOOKHAM, New Bond Street; J. MURRAY,
Fleet Street; and W. RICHARDSON,
Royal Exchange.

MDCCXC.



THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

IN TWO VOLUMES

BY

VOL. II.

LONDON

Printed by T. W. Boone, at the
Salem Office of the Boston
Herald, No. 10, N. W. Corner,
Fleet Street, and W. Richardson,
Royal Exchange.

MDCCCLX.



T H E

PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN.

L E T T E R I.

TO MRS. PHILLIPS.

I Am just returned from performing the last sad office to the remains of my departed friend. We arrived not at L—— till the evening of the third day— on
VOL. II. B our

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our entrance into the village, the bell tolled, and the villagers all assembled themselves at their doors to observe the solemn procession! silence and pity were pourtrayed in their countenances. I chose the hour of twelve, for the performance of the ceremony, thinking thereby, to avoid the concourse of people which usually assemble together on such occasions—but I was mistaken, the church was actually crowded—one old woman in particular, pressed through the crowd, and coming close to the coffin, sobbed aloud.

I confess I was a little awed with the solemnity of the scene;

I

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I never before had been in a church at that hour of night—that of L——, is an old gothic building; the inside of which, is composed of very dark brown oak, and requires an innumerable quantity of lights to render it visible.

I could not help secretly exclaiming with Congreve,

“ ’Tis dreadful——

“ How reveren’d is the face of this tall pile,

“ Whose ancient pillars rear their marble heads,

“ To bear aloft its arch’d and pond’rous roof,

“ By its own weight made stedfast and im-

“ movable—

“ Looking tranquillity it strikes an awe,

“ And terror to my aching sight; the tombs

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“ And monumental caves of death look cold,
“ And shoot a chillness to my trembling
“ heart.”

The graves of Mrs. Spencer, and Mr. Haydon, were so near each other, that there was just room enough to admit of poor Harriet's coffin—her dying wish therefore is strictly complied with.

On our return from the church, we were followed by the same old woman, who upon our arrival at the Inn, begged she might be permitted to speak with us.—With many awkward apologies, she informed us she was Miss Spencer's nurse, and with
tears,

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tears, told us of the love she bore her.—“Oh ladies, she was
“ the sweetest tempered child
“ that ever was born——and
“ so she grew up--you don’t know
“ how much she was beloved
“ through all the village—a lack a
“ day! that poor Mr. Haydon and
“ she, could not make a match of
“ it: poor dear young lady, I
“ dare to say she never forgot him,
“ but the old gentleman was
“ well punished for it before he
“ died.”

“ Sir William is dead then,”
said I.—“ Aye madam, he died
“ just six months ago — he
“ broke his heart I believe; but
“ he was never at rest after his

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“son died; he haunted him
“day and night—he could ne-
“ver stir out but his son
“went along with him—he was
“obliged to have him laid under
“the great tree in the park.”
——“Poh! poh! good woman,”
said Mrs. Maynell, “do not
“give ear to such idle tales
“formed only by the imagi-
“nation.”

“Oh madam! I beg pardon,
“but all the neighbours knows
“’tis true.”

We could not convince the
old woman of the fallacy of her
opinion; therefore making her a
small present, I told her it was
time

THE PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN. 7

time to retire, and wished her a good night. I arose early the next morning to take a last view of the spot where my friend lies. "Farewell, dear shades," said I, "death relenting the injury he did in separating, has once more placed you together:" and kneeling by the side of the grave (which was not then covered) "Endue me, O heavenly Father, with fortitude to resist every temptation to ill; preserve me in every danger, and oh! grant my life may be innocent and faultless, my end resigned and chearful as hers, whose remains are here deposited."

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I shed a few parting tears to her memory, and then bid her adieu for ever.

On my return to the Inn, I found Mrs. Maynell up, and waiting breakfast; she chid me for indulging my grief, and hastened me as fast as possible from L——n.

We passed the house where Mr. Spencer lived; it was an old building, now almost in ruins (the present vicar had built a new one at some distance) it was uninhabited, save by birds, the walls o'ergrown with ivy, a mournful witness of the fate of its late owners.

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I have sent you a sketch of the little monument I have caused to be erected to my friend's memory, and the inscription I mean to have placed upon it.

Adieu, dear Emily,

I am fatigued and melancholy.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

B 5 L E T-

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
FREDERICK HAYDON,
AND
HARRIET AMELIA SPENCER,
A LOVELY PAIR,
BY NATURE FORM'D TO
BLESS EACH OTHER;
BUT CRUEL DEATH, JEALOUS OF SO GREAT
AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN
BEAUTY, LOVE, AND VIRTUE;
TORE THEM ASSUNDER
ERE
THEIR UNION WAS COMPLETED.

Escap'd from ills, and safe on that calm shore
Where cruel fate can never part you more;
Here sleep secure, remembrance drops a tear,
And friendship e'er shall mourn your losses here.

LETTER II.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq.

London,

I Arrived in this place with a firm resolution of chastising Lord Moreton, for his insulting behaviour to the charming Lucretia, but the villain has evaded my design, and quitted the kingdom under pretence of visiting a dying friend.—However, I have not yet done with him, for if e-

B6

ver

ver he returns to England, I will post him in every part of the town, and thereby provoke him to vindicate his character, notwithstanding the dislike I have to the practice of duelling, yet my honour and the avowed love I bear to Miss Lawson, will not hinder me from following the dictates of that fashionable vice: I must confess in this enlightened age, I think it is the greatest stain to humanity, and the duty we owe each other; but custom, the bane of society, has decreed it so, and we servilely obey.

I have not yet declared my love;
I have restrained my passion, to
consult in some measure, the be-
haviour

haviour of my adored Lucretia : doubly happy should I be, if I could perceive the least action whereby I may be led to suppose myself not totally indifferent to her.

I am mercenary in my love, I cannot be contented with mere esteem ; I must possess the whole of her affections—do not suppose by this, that I am addicted to jealousy ; far from it : a man that cannot place a confidence in that woman's honour and duty, whom he chuses for a wife, deserves not to be blessed with the tender appellation of a husband.

As

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As the cause of my journey to town, is unknown to any one of my family, I shall hasten into Yorkshire as soon as I have subscribed myself

Your's, &c.

CHARLES HAMILTON.

L E T.

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LETTER III.

TO MRS. PHILLIPS.

Maynell-Lodge

THIS life has been by some authors compared to a draught-board ; the allusion is simple though obvious, for it is so chequered with good and evil, pleasure and pain—that we cannot enjoy the one without experiencing too often an equal proportion of the other. It is not two years since my dear mother
(for

(for so Mrs Maynell has permitted me to call her) experienced the loss of an only child, by an untimely fate.

At my first arrival at her house, she told me I should be to her, a second daughter : I did not then understand her, but yesterday practising some airs on the harpsichord, she desired me to play to her that beautiful composition of Edwin and Angelina—and coming to that part of Angelina's tale, wherein she says

“ And there forlorn despairing hid,

“ I'll lay me down and die.”

I perceived Mrs Maynell burst into tears: I stopped, and going to her, enquired if she was ill? she answered in the negative. "But," said she, "I did not think I should have been so much affected, it was always a favorite song of mine and my poor Louisa's; but those two lines bear so great an analogy to the dear girl's unhappy fate, that I cannot hear them without emotion."—I endeavoured to wave the discourse, she perceived my drift, and bidding me sit down by her proceeded thus;

"The great resemblance you bear to my daughter, prepossessioned me in your favor, from the first time I saw you: she was about

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“ about your height and age, and
“ (bating the partiality of a mo-
“ ther) beautiful in the extreme
“ —her sensibility was excessive —
“ she was possessed of a soul a-
“ live to every tale of woe and
“ misery.”

“ Admired by all, she selected
“ but few friends; and though
“ many paid their addresses to
“ her, she scorned to give pain
“ to any one, and placed her af-
“ fections on a young gentleman,
“ the son of Lord——, one of
“ our neighbours: for near a
“ twelvemonth, he continued to
“ visit us in the most friendly
“ manner, and to all appearance
“ actually adored Louisa: his fa-
“ ther’s.

“ther’s consent was gained; ours
 “was given, and nothing remain-
 “ed to be concluded but the ce-
 “remony—when one day he came
 “as usual and pressed Louisa to
 “name an early day; she hesitat-
 “ed—her father, anxious to see
 “his daughter’s happiness com-
 “pleted, fixed upon that day
 “fortnight—she blushed consent,
 “and her lover took leave of us
 “to set off for town, to procure,
 “as he said, a special licence, and
 “to settle a few other concerns,
 “which required his immediate
 “presence. A week passed and
 “no tidings was received from
 “MrD——; we were surpris-
 “ed! but more when the day
 “arrived, which was to have
 “made

“made my poor girl Mrs.
 “D——, still we thought ill-
 “ness or some very urging busi-
 “ness detained him; his father
 “ignorant of the real, imputed it
 “to the same cause: but what
 “was our grief, our indignation,
 “when we perceived three weeks
 “after his departure, a para-
 “graph in the newspapers, to
 “the following effect.”—“Yes-
 “terday was married by special
 “licence at the Grace the Duke
 “of A——s, in Hanover-square,
 “the Right Honorable Augustus
 “D——, to lady Matilda
 “A——, eldest daughter of his
 “Grace.”

“The

“ The deserted Louisa, was
 “ the first who read the fatal
 “ news; she dropt the paper from
 “ her hands, she fell and awoke
 “ no more to happiness or repose:
 “ A violent fever ensued, which
 “ confined her three months to
 “ her room, and when that left
 “ her, it left her bereaved of
 “ her senses.”

“ Oh Miss Lawson, to behold
 “ her in that state, was worse
 “ than to behold her dead. Yet
 “ she said, she was happy: she
 “ called herself by her perfidious
 “ lover’s name, yet seemed to
 “ have no recollection of the in-
 “ jury he had done her. In this
 “ state, she remained six months:
 “ she

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“ she was one evening sitting
“ with me alone, I was looking
“ attentively at her; the tears ran
“ copiously down my cheeks: she
“ was employed in twisting some
“ silk round her finger.” “ There,”
“ said she, ‘ this ring shall unite
“ us for ever—but suppose I
“ should lose it? well, no matter,
“ Mamma will lend me hers; ah!
“ but suppose I should lose
“ THAT? WELL! then I can’t
“ be married, no, I can’t—so
“ Augustus must go and marry
“ somebody else; no! no! I can-
“ not bear that.’—She burst into
“ tears; I was myself almost be-
“ reft of my senses, but drew
“ happy presages from those
“ tears; as they were the first she
“ had

" had shed since her illness. I
 " took her in my arms, she looked
 " stedfastly upon me, ' Why do
 " you weep, mamma? you must
 " not weep till your Louisa
 " is placed beneath the green
 " turf: when I am dead, give
 " this ring to Augustus,' (giving
 " me that she had just twisted)
 " he loved his Louisa once, but
 " he has grown naughty lately,
 " but don't scold him, 'twill
 " grieve my heart to see him
 " weep.'—After this speech, she
 " sat sullenly silent. Alas! dear
 " Louisa, never did thy discon-
 " solate mother hear thee more."

" We had a person to attend
 " her constantly, she was never
 " per-

“ permitted to leave her ; but
 “ the fatal morning after this—
 “ she arose early before any of the
 “ family were stirring, and while
 “ her attendant was asleep, steal-
 “ ing softly down stairs, proceed-
 “ ed into the garden and there
 “ ———oh! do I live to declare
 “ it, the wretched maid put an
 “ end to her existence by throw-
 “ ing herself into the canal.”

“ Excuse my tears, dear Lu-
 “ cretia, the narrative has open-
 “ ed afresh those wounds which
 “ time had began to heal—when
 “ you have perused this paper re-
 “ turn it me, it was found in a
 “ pocket book belonging to poor
 “ Louisa.”

“ Oh

Oh my dear Emily, how my heart bleeds for poor Mrs Meynell. The Nobleman, I heard having promised himself so much happiness from his son's marriage with Miss Meynell, was very much affected at her melancholy fate; he quitted the neighbourhood, and has never seen his son since.—Alas! what misery has not the perfidious Mr D——, entailed on the amiable family.

I have enclosed a copy of the paper.

Adieu,

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

C

“ Poor

“ Poor Louisa, thy Augustus
 “ is gone! — gone—where! my
 “ heart tells me to wed another—
 “ no—no! it is false — heart,
 “ thou art deceitful—believe him
 “ not—Augustus is true—I think.
 “ he is true—how my heart beats
 “ —I am sick—adieu Augustus,
 “ thy poor Louisa will never see
 “ thee more—she is wretched, she
 “ would fain cry—but you, Au-
 “ gustus, will weep for her when
 “ she is dead—will you not plant
 “ a willow over my grave?—I
 “ would do so for you, but you
 “ are grown cruel, you was once
 “ kind—if you was here, I would
 “ hang on your bosom, I would
 “ wipe the tears from my eyes.
 “ I would sing a plaintive tune—
 “ you

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“ you should never leave me ; we
“ would walk together, we would
“ repose on the mossy bank, and
“ when we were tired with life,
“ with love, we would lay our-
“ selves down and die ; and the
“ little birds of the wood would
“ bury us, our coffins should be
“ of leaves, and the nightingale
“ would sing our funeral dirge !
“ - - - - - But soft,
“ poor Louisa must die alone—
“ Augustus is *far, very far off*
—he will not come to comfort
“ her—he will not come to see
“ her expire ! to bid her one last
“ farewell—ah ! no.”

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“ The cold grave must receive me alone,

“ My lover will never return ;

“ He has left me to weep and to moan,

“ I shiver! I sigh!—now I burn.”

“ Deserted by Augustus, poor Louisa dies,

“ Oh! haste Augustus, bless Louisa's eyes;

“ With one last look, bid her one last adieu,

“ Then go and say Louisa d'yd for you.”

LET-

LETTER IV.

TO MISS LAWSON.

Clare-Hall.

YOUR narrative of the lovely Miss Maynell's misfortunes has made me reflect on the vicissitudes of human life, and the variety of ills and calamities, that even the best state of it is subject to—the shortness and uncertainty of its duration, the want of reason and fortitude to support our-

selves under pain or affliction, are sufficient proofs of the truth of this assertion.

From the character you have given me of Mrs, Maynell, I am convinced that she is possessed of every good quality, and in particular fortitude; and though this may in some measure enable her to suppress the rough torrent of ill, it cannot exempt her from the common lot of mortality. My Henry intends passing the winter at Paris, and the spring, in visiting other remarkable places on the continent: I cannot but with pleasure embrace so favourable an opportunity of gratifying my curiosity, which has
ever

ever been a leading trait in my character.

How much more agreeable would the different scenes appear if my dear Lucretia would accompany me.

Mr Phillips has written by the same post, to intreat the favour of your company on our tour—it is the first time he ever did himself that honour, your politeness therefore will not admit of a denial.

I have hired the daughter of one of my father's tenants to attend me, besides my own woman.

She is a sensible girl, and has been brought up in a superior style to the generality of country girls.— If you consent to our request, I will resign her to you.

To morrow we go to Elm-Wood to take leave of my dear parents, where we shall remain a few days, and then set forward on our journey to give orders, for which I must now bid you

Adieu,

EMELIA PHILLIPS.

LET-

L E T T E R V.

TO MRS PHILLIPS.

Meynell Lodge.

YOUR obliging invitation is most thankfully acknowledged, my dear friend, but permit me to decline it—do not be angry, but place yourself in my situation; I am perhaps wrong, but indeed I am miserable, while I fancy myself a burthen to my friends.

C 5

I

I am not happy even here, but it does not proceed from ingratitude; no, on the contray, 'tis an excess of gratitude—the knowledge of my never being able to repay the many and great obligations I am under, which contributes to my discontent.

As I was looking yesterday over some papers which belonged to Miss Spencer, I perceived a small parcel folded up, and directed to me: by the weight of it, I concluded it was money, I was not mistaken—the dear girl had while with her father, saved the sum of twenty guineas, which during her residence with me, she had no occasion for.—I have
en-

enclosed the letter for your perusal; the sum shall be expended in beautifying the little monument I have caused to be erected to her memory.

May you, my Emily, enjoy your health to partake of every pleasure from your intended tour—make a repetition of my wishes to Mr. Phillips, and excuse my bidding you so abrupt a farewell; but Mrs. Maynell is waiting for me, to accompany her on a visit a few miles off.

Once more adieu, my dear friend; continue to write, for in your correspondence and friendship,

ship, lies the greatest happiness
of my life.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

TO MY DEAR FRIEND AND
BENEFACTRESS.

SENSIBLE that the *trifle* enclosed, would not be adequate to the many pecuniary obligations I am under to my dearest Miss Lawson, I dare not trespass so far on your sensibility as to name it during my life time—but as in
death

death all errors are forgotten, you will I hope pardon all mine, the greatest of which I can charge myself with, is so long consenting to be burthenfome to the generosity of my only friend.

Where, had it not been for you, must I have flown for support and assistance, during my long and tedious illness?

I should long ere this have been consigned to my parent earth, unattended by one kind friend—lamented by none, for I have none to lament me—and my death would have been productive of joy, to the merciless, unpitying world.

Once

Once again, my dear madam,
I invoke every blessing for you—
and long, VERY long may you
enjoy them.

Your life must be productive
of much happiness, to all who
are acquainted with your many
virtues.

Before you receive this, I hope
to be among those who are COM-
PLEATLY blest.

Adieu, the happy

HARRIET AMELIA SPENCER.

LET-

LETTER VI.

TO MRS. MAYNELL.

London.

MADAM,

THOUGH I have not the honour of being personally known to you, I cannot reconcile it to my conscience, to see so much goodness and humanity as you are possessed of, abused with impunity. You, my dear madam, have been abused in the grossest manner; you have received and
har-

harboured a viper in your bosom, that in time will sting you in the tenderest part. The young person whom you have taken into your family, Miss Lawson, is not that modest virtuous girl she pretends to be ; its true she has been well educated, but not with the expectations of a fortune.

At the time your Nephew rescued her from the attacks of Lord Moreton, she was in keeping with a young nobleman ; and not being of a covetous disposition, would not consent to be the mistress of age and ugliness, though on more advantageous terms.

This

This I do assure you to be fact —you will perhaps think it false, from the circumstance of her retiring with you into the country; but she has a scheme in agitation (as my lord — has turned her off on her supposed infidelity) which if it succeeds not, she will not remain with you. I am perfectly convinced of the truth of what I write, and if you retain the least doubt of my veracity, beg you will not make this discovery known to her, till after some time has elapsed.

I remain, madam,

Your obedient humble servant,

LETTER VII.

TO LORD MORETON.

MY LORD,

THE instructions you left with me, have been punctually followed. I have just dispatched a letter to Mrs. Maynell, wherein I have informed her, that Miss Lawson is no other than a lady of pleasure; and what I think will have more effect than any thing, I have insinuated that she

intends

intends to persuade her Nephew to marry her.

Finding the other day, a packet of letters which your lordship sent me some years ago, I copied them, and altered the names to that of a young gentleman, who I have pretended was the keeper of Miss Lucretia.

These I have given to Mr. Barnes, and desired him at a convenient opportunity, to drop them in the garden.

Your lordship may therefore prepare, at the time I shall send you

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you word, to return in disguise to England.

I think it will be impossible now, for Miss Lawson to escape; however, time will determine which is the best plotter, your lordship, or your most

Devoted humble servant,

ELEANER BROWN.

L E T.

LETTER VIII.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq ;

I Have at last ventured to declare my love, and though the dear maid has refused to listen to my addressee, I doubt not but time and assiduity will conquer her resolution.

We received yesterday a visit from a very formal old gentleman and lady, who seldom do any thing but play at whist and take snuff.—I left them after tea,
and

and perceiving Lucretia in the garden, went to intreat the favour of her company in a walk.

She was sitting in a melancholy attitude, I went up to her without her perceiving me; a deep sigh escaped her bosom: she put her handkerchief to her face as if to wipe off a dropping tear.

“What would I not give,” said I (presenting myself to her view) “to be the subject of those meditations?” “Heavens! Mr. Hamilton,” exclaimed she, starting up, “you have then been a witness of my weakness”—“I intreat your pardon, charming Miss Lawson, for thus intruding on your retirement; but

“but as I dare say you, as well,
 “as myself, experience the dul-
 “ness of Mr and Mrs Merton’s
 “conversation; I am come to
 “propose a walk to the next
 “village.”

She assented, the evening
 was calm and serene, the fea-
 thered choristers entertained us
 with their evening song — We
 were both so much taken up
 with the beauty of the scene,
 that we walked some time with-
 out uttering a syllable.—“Me-
 “thinks we have caught the
 “infection from within:” said
 “Lucretia smiling. “Indeed my
 “thoughts were taken up with
 “a most pleasing theme,” re-
 “turned

turned I, "though my tongue was silent."—"If then the subject was so pleasing in IDEA, it will certainly bear communicating."—"That subject then was yourself."—"Me! Mr. Hamilton!" with an averted blushing face.

"My dear madam, pardon my presumption," taking her hand, "for what I am going to say; but can you condemn what you are the cause of?—to SEE YOU and not LOVE YOU, is impossible! can you then blame me for what I have it not in my power to prevent."

"Deign

“ Deign, Miss Lawson, to ac-
 “ cept of my HEART, my FOR-
 “ TUNE, and would it were an
 “ EMPEROR’s, for your sake—
 “ Mr and Mrs Meynell know
 “ and approve of my passion, it
 “ only therefore remains with
 “ you to fix my doom.”

“ I esteem myself, Mr Hamil-
 “ ton, extremely honoured by
 “ your attention to me, and also
 “ at being thought worthy by
 “ Mr and Mrs Meynell to be
 “ allied to so good a family ;
 “ but I must beg leave to de-
 “ cline your addresses—were I
 “ possessed of the fortune I once
 “ was, I know not but I”——
 “ Wrong me not so much,
 D “ charm-

“ charming Lucretia, as to sup-
 “ pose fortune has the least at-
 “ tractions for me; it is pro-
 “ ductive of the highest satisf-
 “ faction to me, to know, that
 “ LOVE, and not INTEREST, is
 “ consulted in my choice.”

“ Your generosity is excessive,
 “ Sir, but I am possessed of a
 “ very proud heart, I never can
 “ consent to bring poverty to
 “ the man on whom I bestow
 “ my hand;—I will deal inge-
 “ nuously with you, your ge-
 “ nerosity requires it—I am not
 “ ashamed therefore to own that
 “ I have never seen the man
 “ whom I could prefer to Mr
 “ Hamilton, but fortune has de-
 “ creed it otherways.”

“ That

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“ That declaration has made
“ some little atonement for your
“ cruelty : but lovely Lucretia,
“ when you reflect on the tor-
“ ment your refusal occasions in
“ my bosom, you will, I hope, be
“ persuaded to listen to my vows.”

She would not permit me to
discourse further on the subject
of my love, and has ever since
avoided being alone with me.

To time, therefore, must I
leave my suit, which to a lover
is a most bitter remedy.

With me success Harry:

Adieu,

CHARLES HAMILTON.

D 2

LET-

LETTER IX.

TO MRS. PHILLIPS.

A Circumstance has happened that will oblige me to put in force the resolution I made on my arrival at the lodge.

Mr Hamilton has declared himself the admirer of your Lucretia, and though I am extremely flattered by his generous proposal, I cannot accept it—I have positively

positively declared my sentiments to him, but as he persists in endeavouring to obtain my consent, I do not think it proper to remain here—no Emily, I will never return the obligations I am under to Mr. and Mrs. Meynell, by encouraging the person most dear to them, in paying his address to one so much his inferior in fortune.—Alas, it has not always been so—what happy prospects should I have in view, were they not sullied by one dark cloud.

I intend to inform Mrs Maynell of my intentions, the very first opportunity, and then to write to Mrs. Wilson, who had engaged to find me employment,

before I was so happy as to know Mrs. Maynell; perhaps she will admit me into her house — my dear benefactress is now passing my room, to retire to dress for the day; I will follow her, and claim a few minutes conversation.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

L E T.

LETTER X.

TO THE SAME.

OH! Emily, what a fresh scene of villainy have I not been informed of! I went to Mrs. Maynell, she was alone; I unboomed myself to her, and told her the resolution I had formed, and was determined to put in practice.—She endeavoured to laugh me out of my romantic scheme, and when she found I was not to be persuaded, she went to her

escrutore, and taking out several letters, some of which were tied up together, gave them to me; I had no sooner read the first, than bursting into tears, I asked her if she gave the least credit to the infamous falsehoods it contained. "No, my dear Miss Lawson," said she, taking me kindly in her arms, so far from it, that I have never looked farther than the subscription of the others, but you may now read them if it will not too much affect you.—I obeyed, they were directed to me, and contained assignments, appointments, and the most tender expressions of love and gratitude for favours received.

Oh

Oh Heavens! who might not have been led to conclude me guilty from so plausible a tale.

Mrs. Maynell made no doubt but they were wrote by Lord Moreton and his accomplices, on purpose to lessen me in her opinion, and once more get me in their power. "But," said she, "how they came here, I am utterly at a loss to conceive"—the packet I found in a private walk in the garden; all the conclusion I can make, is, that Lord Moreton has placed some secret emissary near the house, and has employed him to put in practice this last manoeuvre."

D 5

On

On all accounts therefore, it is not proper for me to remain with Mrs. Maynell, for am I not in danger every time I go out? Yes. — I will return privately to London, as soon as I have received an answer from Mrs. Wilson. O Emily, to what dangers am I not exposed.

May heaven defend your

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET-

L E T T E R X I.

To MRS. BROWN.

Montpellier.

YOUR repeated assurances of success, have at last conquered my unwillingness to enlist again under Cupid's banners.

I own, I think you was lucky in preventing the information being laid against you, but what will not all-conquering gold ef-

D 6

fect,

fect, when given by a female hand.

I arrived here just time enough to be a witness to the death of your old friend and customer, Sir John Wyndham — poor Wyndham, he fell a sacrifice to a squeamish conscience, and died heartily repenting the SINS he had been guilty of.

Write not till you are assured of success—and have the little syren safe within the walls of thy TEMPLE. — If you fail in this attempt, do not expect to see me again for some time, as this country has for me,
 charms

charms infinitely superior to those the dull regions of England afford.

MORETON.

P. S. If you do not succeed, desire you will tell your agent Barnes, to come to me, at Montpellier.

I have tried and found him true to his trust: such a servant is not to be parted with. Have lately been informed that Betsy Davenport intends claiming a promise I once made her of a settlement for life—and though I am under no apprehensions
from

from her, I do not wish her to find me out. As Lord Wareham was her last keeper, she should apply to him, or have made a better bargain, while possessed of his affections. — I never imagined she would live with him long.

L E T-

L E T T E R XII.

TO MRS. PHILLIPS.

I Have received Mrs. Willson's answer—she informs me she has had a very severe fit of illness, from which she fears she shall never recover—but will esteem herself happy in my assistance, as she has at present but one young person to attend the business—she adds, the sooner I can go the better; she will make ready

ready an apartment for me in the house.

I have communicated the contents of her letter to Mrs. Maynell. “And are you really serious?” said she, “dare you trust yourself alone in London, if Mrs. Wilson should not revive her present illness, which does not appear improbable, you will then be at as great a loss as ever—but remember, MY DEAR CHILD,” with tears in her eyes, “you will always find an asylum here, and a friend and mother in me.”

“Oh madam!” “replied I, the more I experience your good-

“goodness, the more am I convinced of my own inferiority ;
 “but never shall it be said, that
 “Lucretia Lawton is ungrateful
 “—No——may the Almighty
 “disposer of all human events,”
 I fell on my knees, “bless and
 “reward you—may every earthly
 “happiness be your lot — and
 “may corroding care for ever fly
 “this peaceful mansion.”

Tears, here stopped my utterance —— Mrs. Meynall raised me, wiped them from my eyes, bid me be composed, and retired much affected.

I confess, I was obliged to collect all my fortitude to withstand
 the

the intreaties of Mr. Maynell, and Mr. Hamilton, who both joined my benefactress, in endeavouring to alter my determination, but I am RESOLVED—I have already packed up my cloaths, and privately taken a place in the stage, for London; for was I to make known my time of departure, Mr Maynell would insist on my taking their carriage to town, and then 'tis ten to one if I should be permitted to go alone—to Hamilton's charge I confess, I dare not trust myself. —I DARE NOT TRUST MY HEART, for Oh! my Emily, the loss of fortune was never FELT till NOW.

Mr,

Mr. Maynell has promised to make what enquiry he can relative to my guardian's affairs, but I fear I shall never retrieve any part of my loss.

I had almost forgot to inform you, Mrs Maynell has forced upon me, another note for fifty pounds, though her first I have not expended.—I have sufficient left to defray my expences to London—cloaths, I want none; and I am to receive a small salary for my services from Mrs Wilson. —I shall, the morning of my departure therefore leave Mrs. Maynell's present, in a place where I know she will find it, with a note expressive of my thanks,

thanks, and an apology for my abrupt departure;—a farewell! is to me one of the most disagreeable offices of friendship, and alwas affects me beyond expression, I have therefore another motive for departing without the knowledge of the family.

I shall not close my packet, till I arrive in London.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq ;

FROM a motive of delicacy,
and scruple of HONOUR,
the charming Lucretia has left
us—she was not to be persuaded
out of her idea of what she
though was right—she would
never consent to be mine—while
there was so great a difference
in point of FORTUNE.

But if that DETERMINATION
is unchangeable, never shall I
boast

boast the happiness of calling her mine.

I made enquiries when last in town, concerning Sir John Wyndham's affairs, but found his estates (which were deeply mortgaged,) were sold to satisfy a few clamorous creditors; while the GENTLE LUCRETIA, was by far the greatest sufferer, ignorant of her wrongs, and incapable, had she been acquainted with them, of asserting her right:—Alas! that innocence should suffer, to support the demands of vice, and the gaming table.

But if that determination
I had never made, As
I had

As I know to what part of the town my fair wanderer is gone, I will follow her, though unknown.—Yes, Henry, I will watch over her steps—I will be to her a GUARDIAN, a PROTECTOR, a FRIEND;—Oh! that she would permit me to unite those tender titles, in the still more endearing one of HUSBAND.

I have informed my uncle and aunt of my intention, they applaud my design.

“ I flatter myself,” said the good old man, “ she would by
 “ consenting to become the wife
 “ of Charles, have made us for-
 “ get our dear Louisa’s loss; but
 “ I

"I cannot help acknowledging
 "her pride to be LAUDABLE;
 "the greatness of soul she dis-
 "covers, causes her refusal, to
 "be most severely felt."

I wait but the finishing this
 letter to pursue the dear girl's
 steps. — She left us but this
 morning, therefore I shall by
 travelling post, reach London
 as soon as she will — I mean
 to take a lodging near her. On
 my arrival, you shall again hear
 from

CHARLES HAMILTON.

L E T.

LETTER XIV.

To Mrs PHILLIPS,

I Am now, my Emily, in that situation from which, though humble, I hope to derive content.

I left Meynell-lodge the day before yesterday, having previously sent my luggage to the Inn. I arose before any of the family was stirring, and stealing softly out of the house, walked to Don-

E caster

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caster. The stage was ready to set off—I took my seat in it, having muffled myself up, on account of the cold and to avoid observation. My fellow-travellers consisted of two women and a man who slept, or pretended to sleep almost all the day.

We travelled till night without any thing happening worth relating, when we stopped to supper: the two ladies and I were in a room together—the waiter entered and gave me the following paper——

Madam,

Madam,

“ From a strict ob-
“ servation, I am convinced that
“ the MAN with whom you have
“ travelled this day UNKNOWN,
“ is an AGENT of Lord MORE-
“ TON's.

“ Time will not permit me to
“ add more than, that your dis-
“ cretion and prudence will sug-
“ gest to you what means are
“ best to be pursued to avoid a
“ snare laid for innocence un-
“ protected.

“ A friend to virtue.”

What was to be done!

Astonishment and surprise, would not let me determine for some time—however desiring the waiter to shew me to his mistress—I told her I was in danger from the impertinence of my fellow-travellers, and wished to remain that night at the inn.—I desired to see the coachman, and giving him a crown, told him, I could not go further with him, and desired he would take no notice of my absence, but drive on as fast as possible, without paying any attention to the passengers, who perhaps might wish him to stop.

My

My stratagem succeeded, I heard the coach drive off without me.

When I retired to my chamber, I knelt by the bed side, and returned thanks to that providence which had a second time preserved me from falling a prey to vice and infamy. I locked my door, and by an exertion of strength, pulled my bed against it, thinking I could not be too secure alone, and a stranger even to the name of the place in which I was.

THE PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN

I laid awake sometime, endeavouring if possible, to conjecture who it could be that had thus warned me of my danger.

The hand was like Mr Hamilton's, but it was impossible to be him, as no one in the house knew of the time of my departure—if it had been public, can I flatter myself he would follow and watch over me—no! no!—a spark of vanity will sometimes kindle in my heart, let me do what I will to suppress it. I set off next morning by a different road, and arrived in town without further
mo-

molestation. I found poor Mrs Wilson very ill : I fear she will not live long. I intend to make her acquainted with my history, as by interesting her in my behalf, she may procure for me among her customers an employment, if her death should once again oblige me to change my situation.

I will now close my long letter, pardon me for being elaborate.

But as to me, whatever concerns my FRIEND IS INTERESTING, I have the vanity to think you will coincide in my opinion.

Your sincere

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

E 4

LET-

LETTER XV.

To Miss LAWSON.

Hotel, Neuf-Paris.

WE arrived here last night, after a propitious voyage and pleasant journey. — I have been rambling about all the day, in order to make observations, and adopt fashions; and though so shortly arrived, am going in the evening to a PETIT SOUPER; given

given by Madame de St. Volere, a Neighbour, who paid me a visit this morning, before I was dressed: she appears to be a lively agreeable woman, and particularly fond of the English.

She makes it her business to be the first to visit a strange lady, and attend her to the Theatre, Opera, or any of the public amusements she may chuse to frequent.

I fancied I should make an OUTREE appearance in the regions of fashion, but I do not perceive any difference, except in the

article of PAINTING, which the ladies use to so great an excess, as entirely to obscure their whole complexions.

I have a letter to write to my dear mama, before I retire to my toilet, must therefore bid my Lucretia adieu.

I expect impatiently to receive a letter from you, as you are ever present in the heart of your

EMELIA PHILLIPS.

LET-

L E T T E R XVI.

To Mrs PHILLIPS.

MISFORTUNES, Emily, surely presided at my birth, and continually attend my steps.— Poor Mrs. Wilton is dead, and I am again left to seek a new support.

Her affairs had been much involved during her illness, and no

E 6

sooner

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sooner was the poor woman dead than her creditors came and seized all her effects.

Luckily, she had a small sum of money in the stocks, which served to defray the expences of her funeral, and paid the landlord. I have taken a lodging in a very private street—my money is almost gone, but yet I do not let despair find refuge in my bosom.—Heaven will endue me with fortitude, to bear chearfully the loss assigned me:—conscious virtue, and the satisfaction that arises from a life devoid of
CRIMES,

CRIMES, will support me under the pressure of POVERTY and WANT.

My landlady, who appears to be a good sort of a woman, has promised to obtain some work for me—which she is very likely to do, as she often takes in work herself—not having sufficient to live upon.

I have just dispatched my last letter to you, I received yours this morning—Mrs. Maynell had it forwarded to the house late Mrs. Wilson's, and the present
in-

inhabitants, at my request, kept it till I sent.

I dare not venture out alone, am therefore prevented from going into a shop—as I might there be subject to fresh attempts from my cruel persecutor Lord Moreton.

Oh! Emily, when shall I be secure from him. — One circumstance might have happened, to place me for ever out of his reach; but alas! fortune has ordained it otherwise, and I submit——'tis the only pang the unfortunate Lucretia feels.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

L E T.

LETTER XVII.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq;

THE lovely Lucretia has again fled, and at a time when I was unluckily from my lodgings. I have for these two days been in search of my fair wanderer, yet can learn no tidings of her.

I followed her to town, and overtook the stage in the evening.

Placing

Placing myself at the window of an Inn, so as not to be observed, I perceived a man alight from the coach, whom I knew to be Lord Moreton's valet—I was on the point of seizing the villain, and chastising him for the part he had acted, but by so doing, I was apprehensive Miss Lawson would conceal herself from me, if she was acquainted with the step I had taken.

Calling there for pen and ink, I indited a note to the dear girl, acquainting her with her danger; and desired the waiter to deliver

liver it to the youngest of the ladies.

I was happy to find the coach received her not again, and that the man was gone in it. Still watchful o'er my charge, I thought not of rest; but being shown to a chamber adjoining her's, seated myself near the door, which I left open, and remained in that situation the remainder of the night; thus could no harm possibly arise to the object of my love, as it was improbable for the least noise to escape my observation; yet after all, how fruitless has been my care! I could almost

most quarrel with my friend, for persuading me to quit my lodging for a moment.

Surely that villain Moreton, has not got her into his power—distraction lies in the thought: I will go instantly to mother Brown's, and compell her to declare whether my surmises are true.

I cannot rest till I have found this dear disturber of my peace.

Your's,

CHARLES HAMILTON.

LET.

LETTER XVIII.

TO LORD MORETON.

I am ashamed, my lord, to address you, after the disappointment I have met with—my scheme in regard to the letters succeeded to a miracle, and Miss Lawson travelled half way to town with Mr. Barns, without the least suspicion — how she found him out is entirely a mystery

tery to us, but at night she formed an excuse to the coachman, and staid behind at the inn.

In vain did he endeavour to stop the coach; the man pretended deafness, and he arrived in town without the destined prize.

I went myself to the inns, and waited the entrance of most of the northern coaches, but without effect.

Am sorry to send your lordship so bad an account of my success, but as I have my spies out in

in different parts of the town, I do not yet despair.

Your lordship need be under no apprehensions of a solicitation from Betsy Davenport—the poor wretch came to me last week in such a deplorable condition, begging me for charity's sake, to take her into my house.

I never beheld such an object in my life: since lord Wareham had parted with her, she had contracted an acquaintance with a noted sharper, who under pretence of taking her to his country seat, had left her at an inn on
the

the road, stripped of all her cloaths and money, except what she had about her.

Vexation at being thus deluded, had thrown her into a fit of sickness ; during which, she had very nearly expired through want of attendance and relief.

“ And can you expect,” said I to her, “ I should take such an object as you are to live with me ? why it will cost me a fortune to provide you with a wardrobe to appear in, no ! no ! you must go elsewhere, I cannot afford to keep you indeed.”

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I have since heard, she has been taken in by an aunt, upon promise of behaving virtuously in future.

If I succeed, you may depend on hearing from your lordship's

Most devoted humble servant,

ELEANER BROWN.

LET-

L E T T E R XIX.

TO MRS. PHILLIPS.

HOW sudden, how unexpected, has been the transition from grief and poverty, to affluence and pleasure!

At the date of my last letter I considered myself as an orphan, forlorn and destitute—and a week had not elapsed before I found an asylum! a friend! a

re-

relation.—The last dear epithet will no doubt surprise you, I will therefore unfold the pleasing tale.

I was sitting a few days ago, in my dismal lodging, over a fire scarcely sufficient to warm my hands—I had changed even my LAST SHILLING, and was ruminating on what course to pursue, for work I had not been able to obtain.

My tears had flowed plentifully; when getting up and wiping my eyes, I was resolved not to give way to a weakness, however involuntary; and repeated to myself the two beautiful

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lines

lines you and I so often admired when at school.

“ Though plung’d in ills and exercis’d in care,
“ Yet never let the noble mind despair.”

I was going down to my landlady to desire she would enquire for a PLACE for me, for I saw no other means to prevent me from STARVING, when somebody knocked gently at my door; it was her, she begged my pardon for her intrusion, and informed me a gentleman would be glad to see me, if agreeable—
“ A gentleman! Mrs. Smith, who
“ is he?” “ Oh madam, don’t be
“ alarmed,

“ v
“ is
My
stair

“alarmed, he is a very worthy
 “gentleman, and is lately come
 “from India.—Informing him of
 “my present circumstances, I by
 “chance, mentioned you as my
 “lodger: He said he had some-
 “where a niece of that name,
 “but had not been able to find
 “her, though he had made se-
 “veral enquiries.” What is his
 “name?” “His name, ma’am, is
 “CHESTERTON.”

“CHESTERTON! Good Hea-
 “vens, my dear mother’s name;
 “is it indeed then my UNCLE?”
 My officious landlady ran down
 stairs, and before I was recovered

from my surprise, and joy, she was in my room with my uncle.

I made many awkward apologies for my apartment, but he insisted on my silence; and Mrs. Smith retiring, he began to ask several questions concerning my family. I related my whole history to him, not concealing the least circumstance. His joy could only be exceeded by mine, on finding we were indeed related.

“ But my dear niece, how
 “ came your father to make
 “ choice of Sir JOHN WYND-

“ HAM

"HAM for your guardian?"——

"My father, sir, dying young,

"and almost suddenly, had not

"thought of making that pro-

"vision for me, till it was almost

"too late."

"On his death-bed, he nomi-

"nated Mr. Douglas, a most

"worthy man, as my guardian;

"and in case of his demise (for

"he was not young) Sir John

"Wyndham was fixed upon—

"the late Sir William was an

"old acquaintance of my father's,

"and during his life time, Sir

"John bore an exemplary cha-

"racter."

“ But, Sir, your presence is
“ doubly welcome to me, as it
“ was generally reported you
“ was dead.”

“ It might so, my dear, as I
“ had not an opportunity for
“ many years, of conveying any
“ intelligence to England.—But
“ come, you must not stay any lon-
“ ger in this place ; I have taken
“ a house in Cavendish-square,
“ and you must live with me: I
“ know not that I have any rela-
“ tion besides yourself, no longer
“ regret therefore the loss of your
“ fortune, as I am possessed of a
“ very large one ; and when I
“ die

"die you, shall have all I am
"worth."

Taking me by the hand, he
led me down stairs to his carriage,
which was waiting at the door—
speech was for some time denied
me, and when I found utterance,
and began to vent my gratitude
in a thousand acknowledgments
—the dear good old gentle-
man would not let me proceed.

We found dinner ready on our
arrival in Cavendish-square; and
after the cloth was removed, my
uncle ordered all the servants to
be called, and desired them to

upon me, HIS NIECE, as their future mistress. When they were retired, he addressed me as follows—

“ I am so well pleased, my dear
 “ niece, with the sentiments you
 “ have discovered throughout
 “ your whole life, that it would
 “ be injustice in me to con-
 “ ceal my real circumstances from
 “ you.”

“ At the time I went abroad,
 “ my sister, your mother, who
 “ was some years younger than
 “ me, was not married; and I
 “ received the account of her
 “ mar-

“ marriage and death, but a year
 “ after each other—the news of
 “ your father’s decease did not
 “ reach me till just before I em-
 “ barked for England.—I was in-
 “ formed he had left his daughter
 “ a very large fortune.”

“ When I first arrived in India,
 “ I was promoted to the rank of
 “ Colonel in the Army, which
 “ obliged me to reside many
 “ miles up the country.—In this
 “ post, I amassed a very com-
 “ petent fortune; and on my re-
 “ moval to another part of Indos-
 “ tan, in consequence of a higher
 “ command, I almost doubled

“ the sum I was before in pos-
“ session of.”

“ Weary of so fatiguing a life,
“ I was resolved to pass the rest
“ of my days in my native
“ country — and after a quick
“ and pleasant passage, arrived
“ in England, about three months
“ ago.”

“ Being in want of a house-
“ keeper, I was recommended
“ to Mrs. Smith, as a person cal-
“ culated to perform that office
“ —I called upon her this morn-
“ ing, and enquiring into her
“ affairs, she told me she main-
“ tained

"tained herself, by working at
 "her needle, and taking in board-
 "ers and lodgers; and (added
 "she) I have now in my house,
 "a young lady, who appears to
 "be under some difficulties, but
 "I dare not take the liberty of
 "asking who she is, she appears
 "to be an amiable young per-
 "son."

"I have enough for the ne-
 "cessities of others as well as
 "myself, and wish but to hear
 "to relieve—I was therefore
 "pulling out my purse to leave
 "a small sum for your assistance
 "when she mentioned your
 F 6 " name.

" name. I was seized with an in-
 " vincible desire of knowing
 " something further concerning
 " you, and after I had engaged
 " your landlady to come and live
 " with me, desired she would in-
 " form you, I should be happy
 " to see you."

" The sequel you are acquaint-
 " ed with—I desire you will look
 " upon yourself in every respect,
 " as my NIECE and HEIRESS;
 " and as you may perhaps stand
 " in need of a few ornaments,
 " more than you have lately had
 " occasion for, I beg you will
 " accept this trifle, the counter-
 " part

“ part of which you will receive
“ every three months.”

Putting notes to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds in my hand, my good uncle left me before I had time to thank him for his unbounded generosity.

Oh Emily, never can I sufficiently adore that PROVIDENCE which has so often preserved me from danger, and temptation, and has at last rewarded me far above what my most sanguine wishes could have expected.

A gleam of hope now cheers
my once drooping heart.

My

My uncle has sent for me to attend him to the theatre.—My life is now one continual round of pleasure, though not of dissipation. I work, I read, by turns, and am retired, though in the centre of gaiety and fashion.

I hear the coach drawing up, must therefore conclude the pleasant theme.

Your happy

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

L E T.

LETTER XX.

TO ARTHUR MAYNELL, ESQ.

I Have at last discovered my long sought Lucretia, but in a situation I fear far above my reach—I went last night to Drury-lane Theatre, to divert if possible, the melancholy which dwelt upon me. When in the front boxes I perceived Miss Lawson, attended by an elderly gentleman, to whom she

she seemed to pay great attention. She was elegantly dressed, and looked divinely.

At first, I confess I entertained suspicions, contrary to the prudence and virtue she is mistress of; but I must confess, the change is sudden.

I have since made enquiry, and find the old gentleman is her uncle, lately arrived from India, with an immense fortune—the tale I hope is true—since I have found her, I mean to return to the peaceful shades of Meynell Lodge.

Miss

Miss Lawson's fortune, is now above my pretensions: Oh! that she had never been possessed of more than when I first saw her. — I am discontented with myself, I find pleasure in nothing—can I flatter myself, you will excuse the peevishness

Have excused another
by your Of your

death of my Guardian, which

CHARLES HAMILTON!

I received a letter from a gentleman whom I had once seen at Sir John's: he informed me he had received

LET-

LETTER XXI.

To Mrs. PHILLIPS.

I Have experienced another addition to my fortune, by the death of my guardian, which however I did not mean to keep.

I received a visit yesterday, from a gentleman, whom I had once seen at Sir John's: he informed me he had received a packet from Sir John Wyndham, which

which on opening, proved to be his will; and wherein he had bequeathed me two hundred a year, all he had saved from the wreck of his fortune. I enquired where Lady Wyndham was, and what she had to subsist on.

“ I am told, madam, she is
 “ now in Paris ; but from her
 “ infidelity to her husband, he
 “ did not even mention her when
 “ he died.—I was at a loss to
 “ know where to find you, till by
 “ chance, meeting with a person
 “ who was formerly a servant of
 “ mine, she informed me she
 “ lived

“lived with you, in the capacity of a housekeeper.”

I thanked him for the trouble he had taken, and told him I did not know but I might again have occasion for his services, as he is by profession a lawyer.

And now my Emily, may I hope you will undertake to find Lady Wyndham: it is not a pleasing task, but justice requires that she (however guilty) should receive whatever was Sir John's—perhaps when possessed of the means of subsistence, she may reform.

I have written to my dear mother, and have received in answer a very polite invitation to pass our Christmas at the Lodge: my uncle has consented to accompany me; my next therefore will be written from thence.—I have reserved part of the money my uncle so generously gave me, to purchase what I in reality do not want, and intend to convey them to Mrs. Maynell in the same manner I did the note, she gave me when I last saw her.

I experience every day fresh proofs of my uncle's goodness:
though

though so long a resident among the haughty tyrannical inhabitants of the East, he has not imbibed any of their sentiments.

— He has lately purchased a fine seat in Bedfordshire, and intends retiring thither early in the spring. On some chosen spot contiguous, he means to erect a neat commodious building, as an asylum for age and honest necessity — there do I hope to pass my time peacefully, nay, happily, blest with the frequent company of my Emily and her family.

When

When I thus employ myself
in pourtraying my present and
future happiness, I know not
how or where to subscribe myself

Your

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET.

LETTER XXII.

TO LORD MORETON.

OH MY LORD !

THE storm which I thought had passed over, has now fallen with double violence on my head—the cruel Mr. Hamilton has again laid an information against me, and I am completely ruined.

I date this from the dreary walls of a prison—Oh! permit me

me, my lord, to supplicate your interest and pity, I plead my long and well tried services!—do not let me sue in vain.—If by your goodness, I can obtain a release, I will retire to some distance from the metropolis, and spend the remainder of my life in solitude and repentance.

Oh! save from disgrace, from misery,

Your Lordship's

Obedient, but wretched servant,

ELEANOR BROWN.

LETTER XXIII.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq ;

IN my last, I told you I was going to Mrs Brown's, to learn if possible some tidings of my fair Lucretia. — She was from home ; I resolved to wait her return, and therefore went into a parlour, which though next the street, was darkened for the purpose of concealing vice and immodesty : — The first object that struck my eyes on entering the
room,

room, was a very pretty girl in tears—she would have retired on seeing me, but I begged she would be seated, as I had a few words to say to her.—“With ME! Sir,” said she in a tremulous voice; unaccustomed, I imagine, to so precise a salutation. “I did not, I confess, madam, come on purpose to visit you, but beauty in distress ever finds an interest in my bosom—and from those tears I should imagine you was not happy in your present situation?”

“I did not indeed expect to meet with such language from a visiter to this house:

“ Oh ! Sir, if you are pos-
 “ sessed of that humanity your
 “ countenance bespeaks — help
 “ me to escape from this detest-
 “ ed mansion.” “ And do you
 “ really wish to quit this infa-
 “ mous way of life?” — “ Indeed
 “ Sir, I do, for it was necessity,
 “ and not choice, which has
 “ compelled me so long to con-
 “ sent to it: if it will not tire
 “ your condescending patience
 “ too much, I will relate the cir-
 “ cumstance which first reduced
 “ me to the situation in which
 “ I now am.” I told her I should
 be glad to hear the recital, and
 assured her, I would do my ut-
 most

most to contribute to her future welfare.

“I was born of parents who
 “live in a very reputable man-
 “ner in the north of England:
 “from my childhood I had im-
 “bibed a great desire to visit
 “the metropolis, and at the age
 “of seventeen, hired myself to
 “go to town with a lady who
 “boarded at a farm-house near
 “us, for the benefit of her health:
 “I did not inform my father
 “and mother of the step I had
 “taken, till after our arrival in
 “London.”

“ They were almost broken
 “ hearted at my departure, for
 “ I was their only child; but as
 “ I had frequently declared I
 “ should never know happiness
 “ in the country, they forgave
 “ me.

“ I had not pursued my new
 “ course of life, above six months,
 “ when my mistress died. I now
 “ began to repent of my folly:
 “ I knew not how to procure
 “ another place; nobody knew
 “ me, and my pride would not
 “ let me return to my parents.
 “ I was advised to apply to an
 “ office; I did so, and procured

“ a

“ a place, but how unlike my
“ former.

“ My mistress, I soon disco-
“ vered, to be one of those sort
“ of women who subsist by the
“ sale of their virtue. I was dis-
“ gusted at her conduct, and
“ would have left her; but as
“ I gained great emoluments
“ from her visitors, I was re-
“ solved when I had amassed a
“ sum sufficient to defray the
“ expences of my journey, to re-
“ turn to innocence and home;
“ but how weak are the resolves
“ of virtue, when on every side
“ besieged with vice.”

“ A young gentleman, who
“ visited my mistress, had paid
“ great encomiums on my per-
“ son, and was very lavish in
“ his presents to me—one day
“ happening to call when my
“ mistress was from home, he
“ told me he thought it was a
“ pity I should be subject to the
“ ill treatment of every liber-
“ tine who frequented the house;
“ and added, his visits had been
“ made, more on my account
“ than my mistress’s—If I would
“ leave her, he would recommend
“ me to live with an old aunt
“ of his, who now was in want
“ of a servant, and with whom

I

“ I should be secure, and no
“ doubt very happy.

“ Inexperienced as I was, I
“ did not see through his arti-
“ fice, but joyfully embraced
“ his proposal, and immediately
“ packing up my things, pro-
“ ceeded with him to his pre-
“ tended AUNT's, without giving
“ my mistress (who no doubt
“ was in the plot) any notice
“ of my departure.

“ I was very kindly received
“ by the old lady, and saw no
“ other person the whole day:
“ she informed me, I was to

“ wait upon her ; but alas ! how
 “ soon was the veil thrown aside ;
 “ in a few days I discovered my-
 “ self to be in the power of the
 “ most infamous of her sex, and
 “ were I to tell the arts which
 “ were practised to effect my
 “ ruin, it would but be trespass-
 “ ing on the rules of decency.

“ I evaded them all for some
 “ time, till one fatal night I
 “ had retired to bed, and se-
 “ cured, as I imagined, my door:
 “ I heard one opened gently at
 “ the head of my bed, and a
 “ person (whom I soon found to
 “ be my pretended benefactor)

“ un-

“ unhooking the furniture from
“ the top, and by that means en-
“ tered the room. In vain did
“ I scream, intreat and rave by
“ turns, it was all to no pur-
“ pose. I endeavoured to open
“ the door, but it was fastened
“ on the outside.

“ My seducer exulted on the
“ method he had taken; supe-
“ rior force prevailed, and I fell
“ a sacrifice to my own impru-
“ dence and disobedience.

“ Alive to all the horrors of
“ my situation, I had no alter-
“ native, but to remain where I
“ was

“ was. — Shame prevented me
 “ from informing my friends of
 “ my misfortune, and here have
 “ I now been for the space of
 “ three months — tears are my
 “ only companions.

“ In vain do I bemoan my
 “ lost innocence—never shall I
 “ regain my wonted peace.

“ Oh Sir! if it is possible for
 “ you to feel the least sentiment
 “ of pity for a wretch like me, for
 “ that PITY's sake, assist me to
 “ escape—assist me the means of
 “ once more throwing myself at
 “ my dear parents feet, of im-
 “ ploring

“ploring their forgiveness, and
 “may every blessing reward your
 “goodness.”

Just as she had finished her tale of woe, a loud rap announced Mrs Brown's return. She was confused on seeing me. After I had insisted on hearing from her, if she knew any thing relative to Miss Lawson's absence—and being solemnly answered in the negative—I took Miss Nelson by the hand, and leading her towards the old procurefs: “Most
 “infamous of thy sex (said I)
 “BEHOLD in this INJURED girl
 “the MEANS of thy punishment.

“Soon,

" Soon, very soon, shalt thou
 " meet the reward due to thy
 " atrocious wickedness; wronged
 " innocence shall stand in judg-
 " ment against thee: and may-
 " est thou in a prison's gloomy
 " cell, be brought to a sense of thy
 " past crimes—there, no doubt,
 " if thy conscience is not callous
 " to the stings of remorse, thou
 " wilt be sufficiently punished, by
 " reflecting on the misery thou hast
 " caused so many beautiful fe-
 " males to endure; which, perhaps,
 " had it not been for thy wiles,
 " would now have shone resplend-
 " ent in the sphere of virtue, dread
 " my

“ my just vengeance, and prepare
“ for thy approaching fate.”

She was so astonished at my threats and reproof, that she let me depart the house, attended by Miss Nelson, without offering to say a syllable in vindication of her conduct.

On my way to my lodgings, I enquired in what part of the country ~~her~~ parents resided?— She answered, not above six miles from Doncaster in Yorkshire.

“ And are you the daughter of Mr Nelson, the grazier of —.”

“ I

" I am indeed, but you know
 " me then Sir, oh ! how shall
 " I ever dare to approach my
 " dear father and mother, pol-
 " luted, dishonoured as I am?"
 " I am sorry Miss Nelson to be
 " the harbinger of ill news to one
 " already enough afflicted by her
 " own wrongs, but your mother,
 " Mrs Nelson is——" " Dead!"
 said she, interrupting me; " And
 " have I been the cause of her
 " death? oh! heart - rending
 " thought, why can I not follow
 " her? I whose greatest wish
 " is to meet death, and the end
 " of my sorrows together."

I begged her to be composed, informed her who I was, and that I would undertake to become her intercessor with her father: and told her, as I proposed returning to Yorkshire as the next day, if agreeable, would convey her to her father's house—but advised her to inform him first of her return: she has done so, but I fear the poor girl will not long survive her innocence: she never raises her eyes from the ground, her gratitude is beyond expression. I have resigned my lodgings to her, till to-morrow, and am at present at an hotel.

Mrs

Mrs Brown is safely lodged in prison, waiting the EVENT of her trial.

Mrs Phillips has no doubt been informed of the sudden alteration in Miss Lawson's circumstances.

I should esteem myself indebted to you for a recital of her good fortune—oh! Henry! I dare not flatter myself she will now listen to the addresses of the adoring

CHARLES HAMILTON

L E

LETTER XXIV.

To Miss Lawson.

JOY to my Lucretia on the fortunate change of her situation — virtue such as yours will always meet a sure reward. — You have been tried in the ordeal of adversity, and have passed it unhurt.

The task you imposed on me, was not with respect to the person,

son I confess pleasing, but as it proceeded from the justice and goodness of your heart, I performed it with alacrity, and am happy to inform you I have succeeded.

I employed a person, who is my MARCHANDE DE MODES, to enquire for me, and when Lady Wyndham was found, paid her a visit, attended by my Henry.

She received us with a HAUTEUR—peculiar to herself, but when Mr. Phillips informed her of the subject of our visit—her pride appeared humbled; a tear
started

started in her eye, and she no longer seemed the imperious Lady Wyndham, but the conscious self-accused culprit,

“ Oh ! madam,” said she, addressing herself to me, “ this instance of Miss Lawson’s goodness, has contributed more to my reformation than the most painted reproof could have done—Since Sir John’s decease, I have had no other means of support, but what has been procured by the most infamous means—but now I will with the sum so generously restored me, retire far from the

“ the noisy throng of pleasure and
 “ dissipation, and pass the re-
 “ mainder of my life in peni-
 “ tence, and praying for my
 “ crimes, and invoking blessings
 “ on the head of the generous,
 “ though much injured Miss
 “ Lawton.”

We left her overwhelmed with
 gratitude—Mr. Phillips having
 first endeavoured to strengthen
 her in her virtuous resolution, by
 picturing to her the difference
 between a life of innocence, and
 a life of vice.

Now

Now I have executed my commission, I will inform you of an adventure which occurred yesterday.

I went with madame de St. Valere to a charming villa, she has near Paris, and strolling one morning in a fine grove near the house, I met a young woman with a beautiful child, about three years old in her arms—she was weeping most bitterly, and seemed to be in the greatest distress.

I accosted her, and in the French language intreated her to tell me the cause of her tears?

“ Oh !

“Oh! madame,” said she,
 “you appear to be ANGLOISE;
 “would to heaven I had never
 “existed, or that it had pleased
 “heaven to have cast my lot
 “in a land of FREEDOM, ANY
 “WHERE, but in this country
 “where the dearest relations may
 “be torn asunder by the villainy
 “of a man in POWER, and con-
 “fined perhaps for life.”—
 “Oh where! where shall I find
 “relief?”

I begged her to be comforted,
 and told her whatever was the
 cause of her sorrow, a lenitive
 might

might be found—taking the child in my hand, I desired she would accompany me to the house ; and leading her to my own chamber, I there again intreated her to inform me if I could be of any service to her.

She thanked me, and proceeded to inform me, “ That she had
 “ been married about four years
 “ to a secretary of the Marquis
 “ de——, and being obliged from
 “ her husband’s avocation, to re-
 “ side in apartments belonging to
 “ the Marquis, had frequently
 “ seen his lordship, and excited
 “ his attention.

“ Being a very gallant man,
 “ thoughts of having a fine wo-
 “ man in his house, and only the
 “ wife of a dependant, encouraged
 “ him to make such overtures, as
 “ vanity led him to think could
 “ not be refused.

“ Her virtue remained unfulli-
 “ ed notwithstanding the many
 “ arts he used, and the temptati-
 “ ons he held out to throw her off
 “ her guard, and thereby allure
 “ her to deviate from her duty.”

“ Finding he could by no means
 “ accomplish his purpose, he dis-
 “ missed her husband, from his
 “ employ-

“ employment, thinking poverty
 “ would befriend him—but here
 “ again he was mistaken, for hav-
 “ ing a sum of money they pur-
 “ chased a small farm at ——
 “ on the produce of which they
 “ lived happily, though not in
 “ affluence.

“ Peace however was not long
 “ to be an inhabitant of their lit-
 “ tle mansion; for the cruel Mar-
 “ quis, giving up the thoughts of
 “ obtaining the pretty Mariana;
 “ had been providing the only
 “ means he could think of to ruin
 “ this charming pair: and last
 “ night when they were just
 H 2 fit-

" sitting down to a simple
 " repast, and were returning
 " thanks to providence, which
 " had not suffered them to be
 " entirely destitute. At this in-
 " stant, an officer of the state arri-
 " ved at their cottage: producing
 " his authority, he desired the un-
 " happy man to accompany him."

" To where?" exclaimed madam
 de Luzerne; " you shall not tear
 " him from me."

" Oh! madam, I am com-
 " manded to see this gentleman
 " safely lodged in the *Bastille*, and
 " I dare not disobey my orders."

" In

"In the *Bastille*?" replied she—
 "Oh my dearest Henrie, I! I am
 "the cause; the Marquis—would
 "to God I could preserve you any
 "way but at the expence of
 "my honor."

"Oh Sir!" kneeling to the man,
 "cannot an unhappy wife by her
 "tears, her intreaties, prevail up-
 "on you to release her husband?
 "take our money, our all; but
 "oh! save my Henrie."

She had taken her child in
 her arms, and placing it in a
 supplicating attitude, the lit-

the cherub begged also for mercy.

“ Don’t take papa away ! pray
 “ dear mamma—she kneels down
 “ to you, and so will I—you
 “ will let papa stay if his little
 “ Mariana kneels too.”

“ Oh God ; ’tis too much !” said
 Mr de Luzerne, running to his
 prostrate wife and child ; but the
 wretch who stood an unmov-
 ed spectator of this heart-rend-
 ing scene seized him, and by
 superior force dragged him out
 of the house, leaving his wretch-
 ed wife senseless on the floor.

The

The affrighted child by its screams, brought in some neighbours, to her assistance; one of whom had set with her the remaining part of the night, for her grief would not permit her to think of sleep.

The morning dawn brought her no comfort, she wandered up and down the house, in a state of stupefaction, when little Mariana asked her to go and find her dear papa.

The child's innocent speech roused her from her lethargy, and taking it in her arms, she

H 4

“ walk

walked towards the wood, where almost blinded by her tears, she did not perceive me till I spoke to her.

When she had finished her recital, I went to madame de St. Valere, and informed her of the liberty I had taken in her house—we returned together to the unfortunate Mariana, and my kind friend insisted upon her considering herself at home.

“It is by no means proper
“that you should return to the
“farm,” said she, “with me you
“will

“ will be safe, and out of the
“ reach of the cruel Marquis.
“ Will you not stay and live with
“ me, my little dear?” to the child.
“ Yes, madam, if you will let
“ papa come home again.”

“ My interest shall not be
“ wanting to effect your pa-
“ pa’s release, my angel; and for
“ the purpose, I will set out in
“ an hour’s time, for Paris—
“ the Duke de——, who is my
“ particular friend, will I am
“ certain, do whatever is in his
“ power (and which is by no
“ means limited) to execute jus-
“ tice in a cause like this.

H. 5.

“ Believe

“ Believe me, all Paris, shall
 “ know of the Marquis’s vil-
 “ lainsy before to-night—so in-
 “ famous a proceeding ought
 “ not to remain unpunished or
 “ unnoticed.

“ My dear madame, think
 “ yourself still at the farm; com-
 “ mand my house, my servants,
 “ as you have already done my-
 “ self, in your favor.

“ Think not the time long
 “ till I return, and fancy your-
 “ self only separated from Mon-
 “ sieur de Luzerne for a few
 “ short days.

“ Adieu ! ma petite Anglaise.

“ I need make no apology to
“ you for my absence, comfort
“ your charge, and do not suffer
“ her to despair.”

So saying, she hurried away
to give orders for her journey.

Madame de Luzerene was all
this time in an extacy of Grati-
tude, which she was unable to
express.

Tears prevented her speaking
for a time, when taking the
child by the hand, she led her
to me.

“ There,

“ There, my love, thank the
 “ lady in the most grateful man-
 “ ner your innocent language
 “ will permit, for I have not the
 “ power to express myself on
 “ the occasion.”

Running up to me, she put her
 little arms round my neck, and
 kissing me several times——

“ There, mamma, I always
 “ thanked my papa so, and I can-
 “ not you know, love any body
 “ better than him and you.”

“ Sweet innocence!” said I,
 “ your actions are more ex-
 “ pressive

“ preffive than the moſt eloquent
“ ſpeech.

“ But enough of this ſubject ;
“ your mamma no doubt ſtands in
“ need of reſt, will you, my dear
“ madam, oblige me ſo far as to
“ forget for a while your miſfor-
“ tunes, and reſoſe on this
“ couch ?”

“ I will endeavour,” ſaid ſhe,
“ but fear I ſhall not ſucceed,
“ however as your goodneſs has
“ in ſome meaſure alleviated my
“ miſery, and given me room
“ for hope, I will not reſuſe your
“ offer.”

“ In

“ In the mean time,” said I,
“ Mariana and I will go and
“ find another new acquaintance,
“ who I am certain will not be
“ less interested in her behalf
“ than I am.”

We went to seek my Henry,
who was all the morning in the
library.

“ Here,” said I, “ is a little
“ friend, who if I am not mis-
“ taken, will be very pleased to
“ cultivate an acquaintance with
“ you.”

I related to him the adventure
I had met with.

The tale melted him almost to
woman's softness; I was not sur-
prized at it; possessed of a mind
well cultivated and replete with
every virtue, it was impossible he
could hear without emotion, a
story which cost me so many tears
in relating.

Leaving the little pratler on my
Henry's knee, I retired to com-
municate what I had been a wit-
ness of, to my Lucretia.

I will write again; may the sequel prove happy to the worthy but persecuted pair.

I am quite in love with the description you have given me of your uncle, I long to see him—now my Lucretia, you can have no plea for refusing to make a love-sick youth happy.

You are too generous to give a moment's pain to a worthy heart, and for all your delicacy, I know your little HEART would say "Yes," if you could but persuade your MOUTH to pronounce the MONOSYLLABLE.

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I shall most certainly quarrel with you, if you do not give your consent, the very next time Mr. Hamilton addresses you on the subject.—We shall set out next week for Languedoc—and expect to return to England, in the course of the summer.

EMELIA PHILLIPS.

L E T-

LETTER XXV.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq;

I Have just been witness to a very affecting interview, between old Mr. Nelson and his daughter. I wrote—informing him of the situation in which I found his Lucy, and in the most pathetic terms, intreated his pardon for his child.

When I thought he would be
some-

somewhat recovered from the shock my information had given him, I waited on him, accompanied by his daughter; Lucy had much ado to support herself while on her journey to her father's house, and upon our entrance into the room where he was sitting, she no longer retained her fortitude; she fainted.

The good old man embraced his daughter, and wept over her as she lay in a state of insensibility, as if his heart would break. —“ Oh my Lucy! my child, revive! —I forgive thee; thy fall
“ was

“ was not voluntary, though by
 “ remaining with me, thou
 “ might have prevented it—but
 “ I have done, I submit to the
 “ decrees of an all wise provi-
 “ dence. — Look up, my child,
 “ thy father calls thee! do not
 “ thus give way to grief.”

Just then she recovered suffi-
 ciently to throw herself at her fa-
 ther's feet, and in the most mov-
 ing words implored his forgive-
 ness — “ I do! I do! forgive
 “ thee,” said he, while the tears
 ran down his venerable cheeks on
 his Lucy's hand, which she held
 in his.

This

This silent yet expressive scene, lasted some minutes; when Miss Nelson, seized by a sudden impulse, started up and ran hastily out of the house: we pursued her into the Church-yard, which lay almost close to the house. — She walked slowly round it, carefully examining every tomb-stone, till coming to one that appeared to be newly erected she stopt to read it; it was what she sought for, it was her mother's — she knelt down by it, and asked pardon of the Almighty for being accessory to her death. “Why,” said she, “did not my father say she died by her
“daugh-

“daughter’s hand, dear parent
“why! oh! why did I ever
“leave thee?”

Her emotions were become too powerful, she again fainted, and was conveyed home in a state of insensibility.

She has since been very ill, but is recovered, and is somewhat more reconciled to her fate than when she first arrived at home.

Mrs. Meynell informs me she has invited Mr. Chesterton, and Miss Lawson, to spend some time
at

at the Lodge, they are expected
this evening.

I will once more declare my
passion, and from my charmer's
mouth receive my doom. I see
a carriage enter the coach-yard;
it is them, I fly to offer my hand
to the divine Lucretia.

Adieu,

CHARLES HAMILTON.

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

TO MR. PHILLIPS.

THANKS to Mr. Phillips and my Emily, for the trouble they have taken in discovering Lady Wyndham's residence.

I have just wrote to Sir John's executor to dispatch the deed to France, wherein I resign to her the legacy left me by her late husband.

Husband. I am sufficiently rewarded by the intelligence you transmitted me, may she continue to persevere in her present resolution, and no doubt she will find that peace which is the constant companion of sincere repentance. I have ventured to write to her, offering a few words of admonition, and exculpating her from being in the least accessory to my losses, as they arose by Sir John's extravagance.

You have interested me exceedingly in the fate of Madame de Luzerne and her husband, and I hope you will not keep me long

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in suspense with regard to their fate.

Heavens! what a situation for an unfortunate wife to find herself in; deprived of all she holds dear, and that in the most dreadful manner, to behold a beloved husband torn from her, confined in a living sepulchre, and perhaps sacrificed to satisfy the revenge of a cruel merciless seducer—alas! Emily, what will not a resolute man be guilty of rather than lose the object of his desires.

I read your narrative to my uncle; he was much affected—and when I concluded—“Tell
“your

“ your kind friend Mrs. Phillips,” said he, “ in whose favour, though unknown, I feel myself greatly prepossessed, that whatever is the fate of its unfortunate parents, the sweet little Mariana shall never want a friend while I am living: from the circumstances above related, Mrs. Phillips cannot think it an incumbrance to protect the child till her return to England, and then I will take the charge off her hands.”

Dear good man ! never does he hear a tale of woe, without administering a balsom to comfort

and relieve if possible the afflicted sufferer.

I ever thought my friend possessed of more than common penetration, but I did not think you was better acquainted with my heart than I was myself—but so it is, and upon examination, I find my Knight Errant has more interest there, than female delicacy ought to acknowledge.

I have not yet ventured to engage *tete a tete* with Mr. Hamilton, since my arrival at the Lodge—for would not a refusal appear

appear now as the effects
pride and ingratitude.

My uncle is in raptures with Mr. and Mrs. Maynell, and has spoken in very high terms of Mr. Hamilton. — As I was sitting yesterday in the library reading, my uncle entered, and enquired into the subject which engaged my attention: it was “The man of feeling.”—He approved my choice, and sitting down by me, begged I would give him leave to ask me a few questions.

“I have,” said he, “endea-
voured to obtain some little

“ knowledge in the art of Phisi-
 “ ognomy, and in general my
 “ study has enabled me to make
 “ very just conclusions :—I will
 “ leave you to judge if I am
 “ wrong when I inform you,
 “ I have observed a certain re-
 “ spectful attention in Mr. Ha-
 “ milton’s behaviour to you,
 “ which leads me to conclude an
 “ alliance with my dear Lucretia,
 “ would be productive of much
 “ happiness to this family.

“ As your happiness is what
 “ I have principally in view, I
 “ desire my dear niece would in-
 “ form me whether she has ever
 “ yet

“yet seen the man on whom she
“would bestow her hand.”

So unexpected an address, disconcerted me—I blushed! and knew not how to reply, till with his usual kindness, he repeated his interrogations, desiring me to regard him as my dearest friend, as my father.—His truly paternal behaviour dispelled my confusion, and I related to him the offer Mr. Hamilton had made me, and the reason of my refusing to become his wife.

“You have now no excuse to
“plead,” said he, “as my con-

“sent is not wanting, and I will
 “now only make your fortune
 “equal to your lover’s, and for
 “that purpose will endeavour
 “to find Mr. Maynell, that I
 “may have some conversation
 “with him on the subject.”

What may not follow from
 this interview ; — Oh Emily!
 though I cannot sufficiently ad-
 mire and acknowledge my uncle’s
 goodness, yet surely he might
 have allowed me a little time
 longer to have subscribed my-
 self his

And your happy

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

L E T.

LETTER XXVI.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq ;

NOW Harry, may I say, rejoice with me, for my happiness is nearly compleated; in less then a fortnight will the dear Lucretia be mine.

My spirits are so much elated that I scarce know how to enter into the descriptive.—

I 5

How-

However to satisfy your curiosity, and to please myself (as every thing does that relates to my charmer) I will inform you what gave rise to such a favourable change in her resolution.

As I was yesterday returning from taking the diversion of shooting, with two of our neighbours, I saw my uncle and Mr. Chesterton coming towards me.

“ We have been in search of
“ you, Charles,” said Mr. May-
nell,— ‘ and were you skilled in
the

“ the art of divination, or in
 “ plainer terms, did you know
 “ the happiness, not to add ho-
 “ nour, this gentleman has con-
 “ ferred on you, we should not see
 “ that woe-begone countenance
 “ which you have of late dis-
 “ covered.”

“ I am so well convinced,”
 said I, not understanding his
 meaning, “ of Mr. Chesterton’s
 “ goodness, that it would be a
 “ trifling compliment to say
 “ how much I think myself
 “ obliged to him for the slightest
 “ mark of approbation.”

“ The

“The coldness of the day would
 “not perhaps be felt by you,”
 added my uncle, “if we were to
 “inform you of your approach-
 “ing felicity in the open air; but
 “if you please, we who are not
 “to be ranked among the class
 “of lovers, will retire into some
 “warmer region.”

I was all this time so anxious
 to discover what his meaning
 could be, that I was in the study
 before they had walked above
 half way up the lawn.

Being all seated, my uncle pro-
 ceeded, “Mr. Chesterton has in
 “com-

“compassion to you, been making
 “a proposal to me, which for
 “your sake I have complied with,
 “though I must own, his offers
 “are far more generous than I
 “could expect or desire.”

“Since my friend,” said Mr.
 “Chesteron, interrupting him,
 “persists in continuing in that
 “style, I must beg leave to tell
 “you, Mr. Hamilton, in my
 “own way, that I have observed
 “your partiality for my dear
 “niece, and which has given me
 “no little pleasure, but before
 “I mentioned a word of it to any
 “body

“ body, I chose to sound Lucre-
 “ tia on the subject, and am
 “ happy to find you have long
 “ been in possession of her regard,
 “ but that you may not be led to
 “ suppose she is at all your in-
 “ ferior in point of fortune, I
 “ have enquired into the state of
 “ yours, and have determined to
 “ make her’s equal, till my
 “ death, which cannot fail put-
 “ ting her in possession of all I
 “ have.”

“ You have indeed conferred a
 “ favour upon me, sir,” said I in
 raptures, “ a favour which I can
 “ never return; for by giving me
 “ my

"my Lucretia without a shilling,
" destitute of every thing but her
" virtues, you have given me
" a treasure which I would not
" barter for an empire."

" But does the dear maid con-
" sent to be mine?"

" She does," replied Mr.
Chesterton, laughing; " so spare
" your raptures till you see her,
" which shall be immediately,
" and where no doubt they will
" be much better received."

We found her with Mrs. May-
nell, who were both employed
at their needles.

Miss

Miss Lawson blushed exceedingly on our entrance, which I imagine was occasioned from the confession she had so lately made to her uncle.

“ My dear Lucretia,” said Mr Chesterton, “ we have brought
 “ you a LOVER, almost out of his
 “ senses with joy, at the information we have given him,
 “ that you will not now refuse
 “ accepting him for a husband.”

“ And now the ceremony of
 “ introducing by that title is past,
 “ I suppose our company is not
 “ in the least necessary, so Mr.

“ May-

"Maynell and I will retire, af-
"ter I have informed you by
"complying with Mr. Hamit-
"ton's solicitations, you will
"greatly oblige me."

Unconscious of Mrs Maynell's
presence, I threw myself at my
charmer's feet, and taking her
hand, "How, most adorable Lu-
"cretia," said I "shall I ever
"be able to return the obliga-
"tions you have conferred on
"me?"

"Never, never! can I express
"half what I feel from your con-
"descension."

"Mighty

“Mighty fine, truly,” said Mrs. Maynell, “’tis no doubt charming, but in my opinion this scene would be PERFORMED much better by yourselves, so adieu, we shall meet again at dinner.”

She retired, darting an arch look, and left me alone with the object of my vows—who by my rhetoric I at last prevailed upon to declare I was BELOVED by her.

Heaven’s! my friend, what extacy was there in the sound?—to be loved by Miss Lawson, in whom every human excellence is com-

combined "IS TO BE BLESSED
"INDEED!"

We parted till dinner time, when the subject was again renewed by Mr Chesterton, who wished my angel to name the day that was to make her mine.

It was a question of too delicate a nature to be easily resolved, she therefore not without some confusion declined it, begging my aunt to answer for her; she did so, and named a month.

"A month! an age!" said I.

"Well said, you have taken
"the words out of my mouth;"
said

said Mr Chesterton ; “ I, as
 “ Lucretia’s uncle, must name
 “ the day ; which I fix for this
 “ day fortnight.

It was reluctantly complied
 with, and thus am I placed in
 -sight of that shore, from my
 landing on which I may date the
 ærea of my happiness.

I see my love alone in the
 garden, I fly to join her.

Yours therefore

CHARLES HAMILTON.

L E T.

LETTER XXVIII.

TO MISS LAWSON.

PENETRATED with a deep
sense of my own guilt, I
know not how to address you ;
but is it possible for gratitude
to remain silent, and language
dumb, when overwhelmed with
the goodness of one in every re-
spect so much my superior.

Oh

Oh madam! how shall I ever make sufficient acknowledgements for the obligations I am under to you, for my reformation, my subsistence, my life.— Never will I return to England more, but in a retirement I have chosen a considerable distance from Paris, will pass the remainder of my life ; taught from my infancy to know nothing above the trifling concerns of dress, company, and the whole etiquette of dissipation. — the more principal endowments of a woman, were forgotten.

The

The day which should have been employed in instructing me in the duties of my religion, was devoted to visiting, and the card table.—

Thus was my life began in VANITY, and continued in VICE, but through your beneficence and my own endeavours, will I hope, be concluded in repentance.

May you, dear madam, never experience the remorse attendant upon guilt.—May your life gently glide away unfulfilled by a single cloud.

Can

Can I conclude better than
by wishing you to be the re-
verse of the wretched but pe-
nitent

CHARLOTTE WYNHAM.

L E T.

LETTER XXIX.

To Mrs PHILLIPS,

AND have I then consented to resign my liberty, and become the wife of Mr. Hamilton? 'tis even so, and but one week is given to reconcile myself to the important change.

I know not how it happened that I was led so easily to give
K my

my consent : but I could not resist the importunities of my uncle, my dear mother, and my Charles. —add to these, a secret impulse which bade me speak the sentiments of my heart, and you will find an excuse for my too ready compliance.

I could almost be angry with Mr. Phillips, for detaining you at a time, when your company is so much desired ; but I am informed by your mamma, who wrote me a very polite letter of congratulation, that a circumstance has happened which will
hasten

hasten your return to England before the appointed time.

My uncle, who says he cannot part with his so lately found niece, has consented to reside with us, and has presented me with the house he purchased in Cavendish-square.—Enamoured of the country, he says he shall never leave it.—We went last week to see the delightful mansion, to which I am so shortly to retire in Bedfordshire.

Imagination cannot form a more enchanting spot — passing over a little bridge, you enter a

K 2

fine

fine avenue of trees, which so entirely conceal the house that you cannot perceive it, though but a few yards distant—the grounds, which are extensive, are laid out in the most pleasing manner—a fine river, entirely bounds the estate, and is ornamented with variety of China Bridges, Boats, &c.—as are the gardens with Pagodas and Temples.

At the entrance of a large wood, stands the ruins of an old monastery, whose decayed spires towering above the ever-greens and ivy, with which the walls are almost covered, and the heaps
of

of ruins which lay scattered beneath, inspires the mind with a pleasing, yet awful memento of mortality.

Were I to describe the beauties with which this place abounds, I should extend my letter to a size scarce portable.

My uncle in honour to Mr. Hamilton, would have named it "Hamilton Lodge," but Charles would not consent to call it any but the ancient name of "West-wood Priory."

I must quit my Emily, to prepare for an assembly this evening. I have promised my hand to Mr. Hamilton, soon shall I resign it - to him for ever.

Adieu,

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET.

LETTER XXX.

TO MISS LAWSON,

St. Omers.

I Shall much sooner than expected congratulate my dear friend on her approaching happiness.

By the date of my letter, you may perceive we have left Paris, which on account of the public disturbances every day increasing in that capital, is by no means safe, and very unpleasant for the residence even of a foreigner.

My

K4

My friend, Madame de St. Valere, who is really an amiable character, was very sorry that our acquaintance should be interrupted in so disagreeable a manner: "But," said she,

"That we may not entirely forget each other, I intend paying you a visit in England next year, which Country, I have a great inclination to see."

I will then, Lucretia, introduce you to this lively FRANCOISE, with whom I know you will be pleased.

The

The release of Monsieur de Luzerne, which Madame de St. Valere, had been in vain endeavouring to obtain for the space of a week, was effected by the disturbance above mentioned, -when his countrymen bravely destroyed that scandal to a civilized nation, the BASTILE.

Madame de St. Valere, has retired for awhile to an estate she has in Lanquedoc, whither Monsieur and Madame de Luzerne has accompanied her, and where they mean to reside.

K 5.

The

The cruel Marquis de——— has severely suffered for his despotism—having entailed the hatred of the populace, by his numerous villainies, and in particular for his political conduct, was one of those unfortunate men who fell a sacrifice to the public fury.

Thus my friend, do we find that providence, who best knows its own time, will never suffer vice to remain unpunished, or virtue to go unrewarded.

I am exceedingly proud of the good opinion Mr Chesterton has entertained of me: to be regarded and esteemed by the worthy, is an acqui-

acquisition I am very desirous to obtain.

The last instance of his goodness in favour of my little friend Mariana, has made me still more desirous of seeing him.

Actions like his, must be productive of the most delightful sensations, as they are not performed with the hopes of any reward.

“Great minds, like heaven, are pleas'd with
“doing good.”

— — — — — “Virtue does still
“With scorn the mercenary world regard,
“Where abject souls do good and hope reward;
“Above the worthless trophies man can raise,
“She seeks not honor, wealth, nor airy praise,
“But with herself, herself the goddess pays.”

Madame de St. Valere, has promised to bring the child to England with her, when she shall in person thank him for his generous intentions.

Our tour to Italy will on the circumstance you mentioned in your last, be postponed till another year—do not therefore expect to receive above one more letter from me while in France: Present my congratulations to Mr Hamilton, may you both experience every blessing a married state can bestow.

May

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May uninterrupted health and
invariable harmony and affection
be your lot.

May the paths of your lives, be
cloathed with perpetual verdure,
and the flowers of peace, and
sweet never fading contentment,
be continually strewed in your
way.

I cannot wish you to experi-
ence more felicity than does

Your happy

EMELIA PHILLIPS.

LET -

L E T T E R XXXI.

TO CHARLES HAMILTON, Esq.

YOU, Charles, who pretended to have read and studied all the most celebrated authors, whether ancient or modern, sublime or rational, must certainly know where to look for an *epithalamium*, or congratulatory address, made to some one of the heroes of antiquity, upon his marriage with

a Cleopatra, a Cassandra, a Parafatis, &c. &c.—I desire therefore you will either transcribe it for me, or peruse it yourself, and place it to the account of my redundant capacity—for positively I cannot at present think of any thing sufficiently eloquent or expressive to say to you, by way of congratulation on your approaching felicity.

You must well remember, that when at school, I never could compose my rambling ideas, or bring them to any degree of poetical sublimity—no, dame nature

ture formed me according to the path of life I was to tread in, and did not bestow on me the brilliant wit of a courtier, the deep thoughts of a statesman, with the manners and fortune of a country gentleman.—We have been here about a fortnight, and intended setting off on our return this morning, but were detained by an accident which adds to the many and various ways found out by an unsearchable providence, to demonstrate the uncertainty and dangers of a profligate life.

As we were sitting at supper last night, with a gentleman and lady,

lady, who are like ourselves, birds of passage, and who are waiting to embark for England with the first wind; we were alarmed by the entrance of a chaise into the Court-yard of the Hotel, and the vociferous exclamations of a gentleman upon alighting, who made repeated enquiries for an English nobleman, who he had pursued from Paris, and who it seems had arrived but an hour before.—The landlord said he had a nobleman in his house, but he did not know his name: upon which his valet was called.

“ Villain,”

“Villain”—said the gentleman in an extacy of passion, and seizing the poor fellow by the collar.

“Tell me, is not your master
“Lord Moreton?”

“Yes, sir,” replied he, trembling.—“Shew me to him
“instantly then, or I will run
“this, (drawing his sword)
“through your fervile heart.”

“Oh sir, I will! I will!
this way he is.”

Such

Such an affair you may be sure engaged our attention: my Emily was terrified—however, entreating her not to be alarmed, and leaving my friend's wife to keep her company, we sallied forth to see the issue of this strange adventure—though not before the stranger had requested our attendance as witnesses that he had cause for his violent behaviour—The noise we made ascending the stairs, alarmed his Lordship, and before we could force open the door, we heard the report of a pistol, and a most violent scream. — An affecting scene presented itself on our entrance

entrance—Lord Moreton on the floor, in seeming agonies, the blood pouring from his wound, and a beautiful, though rather awkward figure of a girl, standing near him.

On perceiving the old gentleman, her father, the different effects of shame, fear, and returning duty, were alternately portrayed on her countenance: Falling on her knees before her father, and bursting into tears, she earnestly implored his forgiveness.

“Loft

“Lost, unhappy girl!” replied he, “but I cannot now spare time to expostulate with you, the wretch demands my present attention, he has prevented my revenge, let him therefore before these gentlemen, and while he has yet breath, acknowledge his crimes, and exculpate you if possible from being the destroyer of a father’s peace, and planting a dagger in his heart, which can never be withdrawn.”

During this interval, we had sent for assistance, and had staunched the blood a little, but
which

which still continued to flow.—
We had him placed on a bed,
and all following, except the
young lady whom I conveyed
to my Emily, though rather re-
luctantly.

The unhappy wretch in a faint
voice, confessed the many crimes
he had been guilty of.

“ I have,” said he, “ been one
“ of those miserable beings, whom
“ neither the sense of religion,
“ or the fear of present or fu-
“ ture punishment, could deter
“ from the allurements of vice
“ and immorality ; ’tis true sir,
I

“ I have persuaded your daughter
“ to elope with me, I have im-
“ posed upon her credulity by
“ giving her a bond, whereby
“ I laid myself under the penalty
“ of ten thousand pounds, if I
“ refused to marry her when we
“ arrived in Holland, which was
“ our intended route, but which
“ bond would have proved in-
“ effectual, as it bears no date.
“ —Heaven has interfered in
“ her favour, and has restored her
“ to you innocent as when she
“ quitted your protection. I
“ look back with horror on the
“ many enormous sins I have
“ committed, and oh my coward
“ soul !

“soul! unable to endure the
“fight of injured worth, unable
“to justify my guilty actions,
“has prompted me to commit
“this last dreadful act.”

“Oh mercy—but dare I name
“mercy, who never attended
“to her call! by the death of
“a friend and companion in
“iniquity, some time ago, I had
“a sufficient warning to amend
“my past life, and by sincere
“repentance might have resigned
“it at least with hope, but now
“all is dreadful uncertainty:
“not one cheering ray of com-
“fort beams on me.”

By

By this time a surgeon was arrived, who examined the wound, and after extracting the ball, pronounced his recovery impossible ; it had entered the skull, and the agony of his mind increasing the fever, hastened his death many hours sooner than it could have taken place in a less agitated frame.

“ And are there no hopes ?
addressing himself to the surgeon.

“ None, my lord, I cannot recon-

“ cile it to myself to administer

“ false ones ; you may possibly

“ survive an hour or two, per-

“ haps not so many minutes.”

“I am lost indeed, Oh that I
 “could recall a few years of my
 “past life, or that a short inter-
 “val might be allowed me to
 “make my peace with offended
 “heaven—but Oh my distracted
 “brain—can a wretch like me
 “expect assistance from the Being
 “against whom I have rebelled
 “during my whole life?”

I seized the opportunity of
 his ceasing through fatigue, to
 mention his worldly affairs, and
 whether he had any thing of
 moment to settle; assuring him
 at

at the same time, of my knowledge of him.

“ I have,” resumed he, “ no
 “ relations that lay any claim
 “ to my fortune, which is large :
 “ I was once the cause of bring-
 “ ing a virtuous girl to poverty,
 “ to her therefore do I mean
 “ to bequeath my whole estate.”

“ Miss Lawson, my lord, is
 “ not in the situation your cruelty
 “ reduced her to ; her virtue
 “ has been her own reward.”

“ ’Tis well, but I beg you
 L 2 “ will

“ will make a short memoran-
“ dum of my intentions.”

I did so, and he signed, and
the attendants witnessed it.

“ I feel I have not long to
“ live—Oh that thought eternity!
“ how dreadful art thou to a dy-
“ ing wretch!

“ Oh, gentlemen, beware of
“ vice—mark well my fate, kneel
“ for me, *mercy, mercy*, heaven!
“ Oh Father of all, spare me but
“ a little—Oh torture! death!
“ eternal punishment! Oh!—”

The

The horrors of this scene, I have not yet, nor shall I ever forget—Oh vice, how dreadful thy end—how sweet the reward arising from a life of innocence, when arrived at the last period.

With melancholy steps we quitted the chamber of the deceased, and proceeded to the ladies, whom we found endeavouring to comfort the afflicted fair one, unacquainted with the imprudent step she had taken. And now it was the old gentleman proceeded to inform us that his name was Stanmore, of Beach

L 3

Farm

Farm, in L——shire, that he had the misfortune to lose his wife when his daughter was an infant—that he had placed her at a boarding-school in the country, where he fondly hoped she would be made a proficient in whatever was useful and ornamental in her sex, but that she had disappointed his wishes, and returned elated with pride, and had attained but a superficial knowledge of what was necessary to complete a fine lady—that he had been persuaded to accompany her to France, by way of finishing her education, and had introduced

2

troduced her into public with that view——he concluded, desiring her to explain her conduct in the last instance, and inform him of her reasons for consenting to Lord Moreton's bare proposal.

Miss Stanmore, who had all this time been drowned in tears, threw herself at her father's feet.

“ Oh, sir!” said she, “ I cannot justify myself, my own conduct has been so highly reprehensible that I cannot reflect upon it, without shud-

“dering at the eminent dan-
 “gers I have escaped.

“I knew not Lord Moreton
 “till a week ago, when I acci-
 “dentally met him at the Mar-
 “chioness De —, he paid me
 “some very high compliments,
 “and regarded me with a marked
 “attention the whole evening :
 “it was utterly impossible I
 “could be prepossessed in fa-
 “vour of a man so much ad-
 “vanced in years, but my own
 “vanity induced me to listen
 “to his protestations. The next
 “morning, I received a billet
 “doux,

“doux, accompanied with a
 “very handsome present, and
 “the day following with another,
 “wherein he made me an offer
 “of his hand and fortune, but
 “at the same time informed me
 “he could not make his inten-
 “tions known to you, as a very
 “particular circumstance pre-
 “vented his return to England,
 “which would no doubt retard
 “your consent, but that we
 “might retire for a while to
 “Holland, where he would in-
 “stantly marry me or forfeit
 “the sum of ten thousand

L 5

“pounds,

"pounds, for which he gave me
 "a bond," (taking a paper out
 of her pocket-book, and present-
 ing it to her father.) "Mistaken,
 "credulous girl!" replied he,
 tearing it, "and was this the
 "charter by which you held
 "your future expectations? poor
 "—poor security indeed."

"Heavens! sir," resumed she,
 "and you have prevented the
 "trial — never — never can I
 "sufficiently adore that provi-
 "dence which ever, with shame
 "do I say it, contrary to my
 "inclinations,

"inclinations, has preserved me
 "from falling a prey to the
 "machinations of a worthless
 "seducer. Thus have I laid
 "open my whole heart before
 "you and this company—I can-
 "not be more sunk in my own
 "opinion, or the opinion of the
 "world; do with me therefore,
 "sir, as you please, I have me-
 "rited your just resentment, and
 "am ready to surrender myself
 "to any chastisement you may
 "think proper to inflict, which
 "let it be what it will, a due
 "sense of my folly will, I hope,
 "enable me to regard it as
 "just."

L6

My

My Emily, whose tender heart cannot bear to behold a fellow-creature depressed by a sense of shame, without endeavouring to administer comfort, interceded with her natural eloquence for the poor deluded girl.

The old gentleman began to soften, a tear glistened in his eye, which he hastily brushed away with the back of his hand, as if unwilling to abate a tittle of his severity. "Daughter," said he, assuming a sternness of countenance, "I hope you have seen your folly, " but I think it also right you " should feel a little for your easy " and

“ and unguarded behaviour: it is
“ my determination therefore to
“ place you for the space of six
“ months in a Convent, where you
“ will have *time* to reflect on the
“ error you have been guilty of;
“ and *leisure*, to study the chief
“ glory of a woman, the practical
“ knowledge of the domestic du-
“ ties—and to make up for the
“ defects you have received in
“ some parts of your education,
“ by your excellence in others
“ —you have laid yourself open
“ to the taunts of an ill-natured
“ world, and also to future ill
“ treatment

“ treatment from the profligate
“ of our sex.”

“ A man gains a great point,
“ when he has brought a woman
“ to correspond with him pri-
“ vately; and a woman by so
“ doing, indirectly defies him to
“ make the worst proposals.”

“ Oh, my father, every word
“ you utter is as a dagger to my
“ heart, and I cannot enough
“ thank you for your lenity to
“ me; and these ladies, for their
“ kind interference in favour of
“ a worthless girl.”

We all endeavoured to persuade Mr. Stanmore to recall the sentence of confinement, but in vain, he would not listen to us, and is now gone with the ladies to conduct her to the Convent of St. Dominic — which is near this town, where she is to remain, as a boarder for the limited time.

I have given orders for conveying the remains of Lord Moreton to England, and congratulate you and your Care—on her increase of fortune.

To

To-morrow we proceed on our journey — my dear girl charges you to say a thousand affectionate things to her dear Lucretia.

The fright we have all received, has prevented her writing by this packet.

Prepare for a visit soon at the Priory ; if possible, we will take Mr. and Mrs. Alton, in our way.

I intend to study Milton's L' allegro, or some such mirth-inspiring theme, for I dare an-

swer for it, you are not any of you, except Mr. Chesterton, raised many degrees above your usual uniform demi philosophical manner; whereas I, who have been married so long, am ready to take a flight to the moon, whenever I think on the happiness I experience with my Emily.

But entre nous, I have scribbled till I am actually tired; so, as the countryman says,

No more at present,
from your's, till Death,

HENRY PHILLIPS.

LET -

LETTER XXXII.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq;

HAIL! wedded love —

Hail marriage, happiest, easiest, safest state!
 Let debauchees and drunkards scorn thy rites;
 Who in their nauseous draughts and lust, profane
 Both thee and heaven, by whom thou wast
 ordain'd:

How can the savage call it loss of freedom,
 'Thus to converse with, thus to gaze at
 A faithful beauteous friend.

HAYWOOD.

This

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This propitious morn gave to
her Charles, the lovely blushing
Lucretia.

Oh Harry ! to do justice to her
charms is impossible, much
more to enumerate the beauties
of her mind.

The lovely maid verifies the
description given by a favorite
author,

Triumphant beauty never looks so gay,
As on the morning of her wedding day.

Her dress was simplicity it-
self,

self, and can only be exceeded by her native innocence.

I have just received an account of the death of Mrs. Brown—she petitioned all her former customers, who could command interest sufficient to procure her release, but they refused to listen to her request, and finding bribery would not avail, she fell into a desponding state and died, sincerely repenting her past crimes.

I have already devoted too much time to my pen:—every moment is an hour, when absent
from

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from the dear partner of my
vows.—I go to rejoin the happy
group.

Hasten, dear Phillips, to Eng-
land, and be a witness of the
supreme felicity of your

CHARLES HAMILTON.

F I N I S.



